Message Text

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R 271251Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2043
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA POUCH
AMCONSUL TANGIER POUCH

UNCLAS RABAT 2924

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, MO

SUBJECT: MARCH 78 MINING EQUIPMENT SEMINAR MISSION

REF: (A) STATE 136618; (B) STATE 077858

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND DATA FOR INCLUSION IN USDOC PLANS PACKAGE FOR SUBJECT MISSION, AS REQUESTED PARA 4(B) REFTEL:

(A) CITIES: RABAT: 2 DAYS (ONE DAY SEMINAR AND ONE DAY OF MEETINGS WITH TECHNICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN). TRIPS: 2 TO 4 DAYS. FINAL PROGRAM WILL BE DECIDED WHEN TOPICS OF PAPERS AND NAMES OF PARTICIPANT FIRMS KNOWN. VISITS TO INCLUDE PHOSPHATE CENTERS (NINE-TENTHS OF TOTAL MINING PRODUCTION) AND POSSIBLY OTHER MINES (IRON, LEAD, COPPER, ZINC, ANTHRACITE, ETC.).

(B) TOPICS/THEMES: (1) EMPHASIS ON OPEN PIT MINING (PHOSPHATE AND LEAD) THOUGH SOME PAPERS ON UNDERGROUND MINING SHOULD BE INCLUDED. GENERALLY SPEAKING, STRATA MINED UNDERGROUND ARE THIN, OUTPUT RELATIVELY MODERATE AND EQUIPMENT IS ADAPTED TO SUCH CONDITIONS, (ANTHRACITE LAYERS VARY FROM 45 CENTIMETERS TO ONE METER). EXCEPTIONS DO EXIST: ROCK SALT DISCOVERED SOUTH OF MOHAMMEDIA AT 400 TO 500 METERS UNCLASSIFIED

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BELOW GROUND LEVEL IS FOUND IN WIDE BANDS. SALT MINING IS PROGRAMMED TO START IN 1978. (2) AMERICAN HEAVY EQUIPMENT IS ALREADY WELL INTRODUCED IN MOROCCO, ESPECIALLY IN PHOSPHATE MINING. AFTER SALE SERVICE IS IMPORTANT (EXAMPLE: BUCYRUS ERIE LIKELY TO LOSE MOROCCAN SALES DUE TO ALLEGED POOR SERVICE, WHILE MARION POWER SHOVEL IS GAINING GROUND). (3) SMALL AND

MEDIUM SIZED PROCESSING EQUIPMENT IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MOROCCAN MINING FIRMS, THOUGH MEDIUM. SIZED QUIPMENT (TRUCKS, DRILLING MACHINES, CONVEYORS BELTS, ETC.) IS SUBJECT TO STIFF COMPETITION. (C) PRODUCTS AND SALABILITY: SHOVEL LOADERS, COMPRESSORS, BULLDOZERS, HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS, EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ACCESSORIES EQUIPMENT. (D) TRADE STATISTICS AND U.S. SHARE: DETAILED STATISTICS NOT AVAILABLE, THOUGH U.S.SHARE IS SIZEABLE, INCLUDING MOST IF NOT ALL HEAVY EQUIPMENT. POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDING U.S. SHARE OF MEDIUM SIZED EQUIPMENT IS SUBSTANTIAL. (E) PRICING: TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INFLATION, ESTIMATED COSTS WOULD RUN ABOUT \$82 PER NIGHT FOR HOTEL SUITE FOR MISSION DIRECTOR; TWO COFFE BREAKS \$180; PRINTING OF BROCHURES \$200:PRINTING OF RECEPTION INVITATIONS \$20: INTERPRETERS \$100/INTERPRETER/FULL DAY; TRANSLATORS AT SEMINAR \$300; TRANSLATION OF PAPERS \$10 PER PAGE; HOSPITALITY \$300; RENTAL OF TRANSLATION EQUIPMENT \$800; SINGLE ROOMS FOR MISSION MEMBERS \$24 PER NIGHT PER PERSON. IT IS RECOMMEN-DED THAT PAPERS BE TRANSLATED AND PRINTED IN ADVANCE TO FACILITATE SEMINAR WORK, AVOID COST OF SPECIALIZED TRANSLATORS AT SEMINAR, AND REDUCE COST OF EQUIPMENT FROM SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION EQUIPMENT TO MERE LOUND SPEAKERS. PRINTED PAPERS MAY ALSO SERVE FOR PROMOTION TO INTERESTED PARTIES UNABLE TO ATTEND. (F) COMPETITION: F.R. GERMANY, SWEDEN AND JAPAN. (G) FUTURE EVENTS THAT MAY CONFLICT: NONE KNOWN OF TO-DATE. (H) MAJOR PROJECTS: OPENING OF TWO MAJOR NEW OPEN PIT SITES

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UNDERGROUND MINING OF LARGE ROCK SALT DEPOSITS.
(I) INT'L ORGANIZATIONS LOANS: TO-DATE, NONE RELATED DIRECTLY TO MINING. SEVERAL PROJECTS FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION INVOLVING MINERAL PRODUCTS (PHOSPHORIC ACID, STEEL MILL, CEMENT PLANTS, ETC.).

FOR PHOSPHATE ROCK MINING, AND STARTING OPERATIONS ON

(J) SPONSORSHIP: APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO OCP AND BRPM REGARDING CO-SPONSORSHIP, AND WE WILL SHORTLY BE TALKING TO MINISTRY OF MINES. WITH ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 3 AND WITH FOLLOW ON ELECTIONS FOR REPS FROM REGIONAL COUNCILS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS TO FOLLOW, WE DO NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO GET FIRM RESPONSES UNTIL LATE JUNE OR MID-JULY. SUGGEST WORK PROCEED IN PUTTING TOGETHER MISSION, ENABLING US TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP APPROACHES ON SPONSORSHIP ON BASIS FIRM DECISION RATHER THAN POSSIBILITY.

2. BRPM ANNUAL REPORT 1975 POUCHED, GIVING ROUGH IDEA OF NON-PHOSPHATE MINING OPERATIONS IN MOROCCO. SEE ALSO RABAT A-14.ANDERSON

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